CONSTITUTION

of the

SYNOD

of the

FREE AND INDEPENDENT

GERMAN

Reformed Church

OF

Pennsylvania.

Adopted April, 1822

PHILADELPHIA:
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1830.

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS a certain number of the congregations of the German Reformed Church, feeling themselves oppressed by the proceedings of the General Synod, declared themselves independent of the same, and adopted resolutions that their ministers, among themselves, form a Synod, and that they, then, might adopt measures to the weal of their congregations as Free and Independent congregations,—understood, however, that the same Catechism, Doctrine, and Symbols be retained as usual heretofore in the Reformed Church,—we have convened for said purpose and with that design this twenty fourth day of

April, A. D. 1822, in the township of Maxatawny, in the county of Berks, and state of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE 1.

The title of this Synod shall be: "The Synod of the German Reformed, Free and Independent congregations of Pennsylvania."

ARTICLE 2.

The Synod shall consist of ordained Ministers, Candidates, and Deputies of congregations.

ARTICLE 3.

The Candidates, after anticedent examination, receive License to perform all Actus Ministerialis. The Candidates, nevertheless, are under the guidance of the President of the Synod with whom they are to take advice.

ARTICLE 4.

The members of the Synod from part of the Ministers and Candidates, are duly bound to

attend on an annual Synodal convention. The congregations, however, can send Deputies to the Synod, or withhold such at pleasure.

ARTICLE 5.

The officers of the Synod shall be: A President, Secretary and Treasurer; which shall be annually elected.

ARTICLE 6.

The Presidents' office consists therein: that he, in all conventions, take the chair, introduces whatsoever is to be transacted, and, after regular inquiry, announces the decided opinion. It shall also be in his power to license Candidates in urging cases, and to call a special Synod.

ARTICLE 7.

The Secretarys' duty shall be, to give notice to the members of the Synod, when and where the Synod is to be held; to record all transactions of the Synod, and to correspond for the same. To his care also the Seal of the Synod is committed.

ARTICLE 8.

The conventions of the Ministers shall always be fixed on a Sabbath, when, by several members, appropriate discourses shall be delivered.

ARTICLE 9.

Every session shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

ARTICLE 10.

Every member of the Synod shall give an account of his ministerial transactions in his congregations, and of the fruits of his ministry.

ARTICLE 11.

Whereupon the Acts of the last preceding Synod shall be read from the original.

ARTICLE 12.

All persons speaking shall address themselves to the President.

ARTICLE 13.

By these measures it shall remain until some other session when agreeable to the opinion of a majority of members, they may be altered.

ARTICLE 14.

The Ministers of the Synod leave the decision of occurences in their congregations at their own discretion; notwithstanding they may appeal for the decision thereof to the Synod.

The articles specified above, were unanimously adopted by all Ministers present.

Hereupon the officers have been elected, namely:

Rev. P. L. Herman, President,
Rev. H. Diefenbach, Secretary,
Rev. J. Zuelich, Treasurer,

and the following resolutions adopted:

1. Resolved, That the Constitution of this newly formed Synod be read in all free congregations.

2. Resolved, that the President take it upon himself to have a seal made for this Synod.

3. Resolved, That our next Synodal session be held in the borough of Cootztown on the 2d Sabbath in September, 1822, and that four weeks previous notice be given of the same.

MINISTERS PRESENT:

1. *Rev. P. L. Herman,*
2. — *H. Diefenbach,*
3. — *C. G. Herman,*
4. — *J. Zuelich,*
5. — *J. C. Guldin.*

Route #2, Spring City, Pa.,
Feb. 5, 1921.

Rev. J. Rauch Stein,
Wilkesbarre, Pa.

Dear Brother:

The enclosed copy of the Constitution of the Free & Independent Synod is presented to the Eastern Synod for its archives by the Consistory of St. Vincent Reformed Church. Dr. Richards wrote me that copies of it are rare & suggested that it be sent to you.

Yours fraternally,
Carl G. Petri.